Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. Fastening apparatus with indirect firing, by means of which a fastening element is driven into a support material under the action of propellent gases from an explosive charge via a piston (2) mounted so that it can move in a barrel (3), between a firing position and a fastening position, and a plug guide (5) in which a piston-braking ball (6) mechanism is mounted, exerting a radial force on the piston (2), and comprising means (7) arranged to modulate the radial force of the balls (6), depending on the relative displacement of the barrel(3) and of the piston (2), between a maximal force when the piston (2) moves forward in the barrel (3), and a non-null minimal force when the piston (2) moves back, apparatus characterized by the fact that the balls (6) are restrained radially by clamping lever arms (7) for modulating the radial action of the balls (6), mounted so that they can pivot on the plug guide (5) under the force of the balls (6) rolling on the arms (7).

2. Apparatus according to Claim 1, in which the lever arms (7) are also arranged in order to exert a rearward axial return force on the balls (6), should the latter (6) move forward.

3. Apparatus according to Claim 1~~one of claims 1 and 2~~, in which the balls (6) are arranged in order to roll on the arms (7) between retaining fingers (71) at the end of the arms (7), away from elbows (72) for pivoting the lever arms (7), and a radial abutment edge (11) of the plug guide (5) which lies between the pivoting elbows (72) and the retaining fingers (71) of the arms (7).

4. Apparatus according to Claim 1~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~, in which the lever arms (7) are mounted so that they can pivot against the force from a resilient o-ring (8).

5. Apparatus according to Claim 1~~one of Claims 1 to 4~~, in which the radial thickness of the lever arm (7) decreases rearwards.